

1 Theodore W. Chandler (Bar No. 219456)

2 <[ted.chandler@bakerbotts.com](mailto:ted.chandler@bakerbotts.com)>

3 BAKER BOTTs L.L.P.

4 1801 Century Park East, Suite 2400

5 Los Angeles, California 90067

6 Telephone: (213) 202-5702

7 Robert L. Maier (*pro hac vice*)

8 <[robert.maier@bakerbotts.com](mailto:robert.maier@bakerbotts.com)>

9 Kiyotoki "Thomas" Natsume (*pro hac vice*)

10 <[thomas.natsume@bakerbotts.com](mailto:thomas.natsume@bakerbotts.com)>

11 BAKER BOTTs L.L.P.

12 30 Rockefeller Plaza

13 New York, New York 10112

14 Telephone: (212) 408-2500

15 Chao "Wendy" Wang (Bar. No. 289325)

16 <[wendy.wang@bakerbotts.com](mailto:wendy.wang@bakerbotts.com)>

17 BAKER BOTTs L.L.P.

18 1001 Page Mill Road, Building One, Ste 200

19 Palo Alto, California 94303

20 Telephone: (650) 739-7514

21 *Attorneys for Plaintiff and Counterclaim*

22 *Defendant*

23 *Shenzhen Smoore Technology Co., Ltd.*

15 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
16 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
17 **WESTERN DIVISION**

18 Shenzhen Smoore Technology Co., Ltd., ) Case No. 2:22-cv-07646-AB-AGR

19 ) *Plaintiff and Counterclaim*  
20 ) *Defendant,*

21 ) **PROTECTIVE ORDER**

22 ) vs.

23 ) **NOTE CHANGES MADE BY COURT**

24 Next Level Ventures, LLC *et al.*, )

25 ) *Defendants and Counterclaimant*  
26 ) *Plaintiffs.*

27 )

28 )

1 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, pursuant to Rule 26(c) of the  
2 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and subject to approval of the Court, by (i) Shenzhen  
3 Smoore Technology, Ltd. (“Smoore” or “Plaintiff”) and (ii) Next Level Ventures, LLC,  
4 currently doing business as ACTIVE, (“NLV” or “Defendant”), (collectively  
5 “Parties”), and their respective undersigned counsel that this Stipulation and Order shall  
6 govern the treatment of confidential, proprietary, privileged, private, or otherwise non-  
7 public information in the above-captioned action (“Action”).

8 Accordingly, based upon the agreement of the Parties, IT IS HEREBY  
9 ORDERED pursuant to Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that the  
10 following provisions shall govern the conduct of **discovery** ~~further~~ proceedings in this  
11 Action:

12 **Purposes and Limitations**

13 1. Discovery in this Action is likely to involve production of confidential,  
14 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure  
15 and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted.  
16 Accordingly, the Parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the following  
17 stipulated Protective Order (this “Order”). The Parties acknowledge that this Order does  
18 not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the  
19 protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited  
20 information or items entitled to confidential treatment under applicable legal principles.  
21 The Parties further acknowledge, as set forth in paragraph 29 below, that this Order  
22 does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5  
23 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied  
24 when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

25 **Good Cause Statement**

26 2. This Action is likely to involve confidential technical information, trade  
27 secrets, customer and pricing lists and other valuable research, development,  
28 commercial, financial, technical and/or proprietary information for which special

1 protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecution  
2 of this Action is warranted. Such confidential and proprietary materials and information  
3 consist of, among other things, confidential technical, business or financial information,  
4 information regarding confidential business practices, or other confidential research,  
5 development, or commercial information (including information implicating privacy  
6 rights of third parties), information otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or  
7 which may be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure. Accordingly, to  
8 expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over  
9 confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately protect information the Parties are  
10 entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the Parties are permitted reasonable  
11 necessary uses of such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address  
12 their handling at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order  
13 for such information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the Parties that  
14 information will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing  
15 be so designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential,  
16 non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of the public  
17 record of this case.

18 **Definitions**

19 3. The term “Designated Material” shall include any materials designated as  
20 CONFIDENTIAL and “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY”  
21 pursuant to this Order.

22 4. “CONFIDENTIAL” information means Designated Material designated in  
23 accordance with paragraph 8.

24 5. “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEY’S EYES ONLY”  
25 information means Designated Material designated in accordance with paragraph 9.

26 6. The term “Qualified Person” shall mean the following persons:  
27 (a) Court and any Court personnel involved with this Action;  
28 (b) Plaintiff’s outside counsel in this Action, their legal assistants, and  
members of their support staffs;

(c) Defendant's outside counsel in this Action, their legal assistants, and members of their support staffs;

(d) Any independent expert or consultant who is retained by counsel solely for the purpose of assisting in this Action, subject to the provisions of paragraph 17 (identification of expert or consultant);

(e) independent litigation support services, including translators and interpreters, persons working for or as court reporters, graphics or design services, jury or trial consulting services, and photocopy, document imaging, and database services retained by counsel and reasonably necessary to assist counsel with this Action, and under confidentiality obligations consistent with this Order;

(f) Two designated in-house legal personnel for the receiving party and for each designated in-house legal personnel, one support personnel (e.g., secretary, clerical, or paralegal).

(g) Any other person who is designated as a Qualified Person by order of the Court or by written agreement of the Parties.

## **Previously Produced Material**

7. The Parties agree that any materials produced by the Parties and designated as Confidential Business Information (“CBI”) in *In the Matter of Certain Oil-Vaping Cartridges, Components Thereof, and Products Containing the Same*, Inv. No. 337-TA-1286 before the United States International Trade Commission (“ITC Matter”) shall be treated as HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEY’S EYES ONLY materials under this Order, as if such materials were first produced under this Order, without the need to re-stamp and re-produce such materials. This Order does not apply to materials produced in the ITC Matter by parties other than the Parties in this Action, for which any protective order in the ITC Matter shall continue to govern.

## **Use of Designated Material**

8. A producing party may designate any material “CONFIDENTIAL” for protection under this Order where that material constitutes or discloses “CONFIDENTIAL” information. “CONFIDENTIAL” information, as used herein,

1 comprises information that the producing party in good faith contends to constitute or  
2 contain information that is (a) confidential, sensitive, competitive, or potentially  
3 invasive of an individual's privacy interests; (b) not generally known in the context or  
4 form as known by the producing party; (c) not normally revealed to the public or third  
5 parties or, if disclosed to third parties, is such that the producing party would require  
6 such third parties to maintain the information in confidence; and (d) information  
7 (regardless of how generated, stored, or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for  
8 protection under standards developed under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c). "CONFIDENTIAL"  
9 information includes, but is not limited to, confidential research, development, technical,  
10 commercial, or financial information, as well as other such information that the  
11 requesting party and non-parties would not have access to but for this litigation. Access  
12 to any "CONFIDENTIAL" information shall be limited to Qualified Persons as  
13 described in paragraph 6.

14 9. A producing party may designate any material "HIGHLY  
15 CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" for protection under this Order  
16 where the producing party believes in good faith that the material constitutes or  
17 discloses highly sensitive business information or items, which the unrestricted  
18 disclosure to a requesting party or a receiving party would create a substantial risk of  
19 harm, including, but not limited to, the producing party's commercial products and  
20 licensing agreements. As used herein, "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS'  
21 EYES ONLY" information and items shall include at least: (a) highly sensitive  
22 information relating to the development of electronic vaporizers, packaging systems or  
23 components or consumables thereof; (b) financial or business reports and forecasts  
24 including plans, strategies, market analyses, costs, and pricing information; (c)  
25 customer information, including customer-identifying information, and purchasing  
26 information; (d) sensitive licensing agreements, service agreements, supply agreements,  
27 or other business agreements; and (e) draft, pending, or abandoned patent, trademark,  
28 and copyright applications, foreign or domestic, unless published or otherwise publicly  
available. Access to "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY"

1 information and items shall be limited strictly to the subcategories of Qualified Persons  
2 in paragraphs 6(a)-6(e) and 6(g).

3 10. Designated Material will be used solely for the purpose of prosecuting,  
4 defending, or settling this Action, including any appeal and retrial, and will not be used  
5 for any other purposes, without consent of the producing party or order of this Court.

6 11. Nothing in this Order shall prevent any person, including a Qualified  
7 Person, from making use of any information that is designated as Designated Material  
8 if such information:

9 (a) Was lawfully in his or her possession prior to receipt under the  
10 provisions of this Order;

11 (b) Was or becomes available to the public through no fault of a  
12 receiving party;

13 (c) Was or is obtained from a source not under an obligation of secrecy  
14 to the designating party; or

15 (d) Is exempted from the operation of this Order by written consent of  
16 the designating party.

17 12. If any person disputes or challenges the designation of any information as  
18 Designated Material based on any ground, such information shall nevertheless be  
19 treated according to its specific designation as Designated Material  
20 (“CONFIDENTIAL,” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES  
21 ONLY”) in accordance with the provisions of this Order until such designation is  
22 removed by order of the Court or by written consent of or re-designation by the  
23 designating party.

24 **Disclosure of Designated Material**

25 13. Any use of Designated Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of  
26 the trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Designated Material at trial. In  
27 the context of motions or court proceedings that are more than tangentially related to  
28 the merits of this case, the court applies a compelling reasons standard. *See Ctr. for  
Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1101-02 (9th Cir. 2016). Otherwise,

1 Designated Material is disclosed as provided in Paragraphs 6, 8, 9, 14, 15, and 16.  
2 Designated Material shall not be revealed, disclosed, described, summarized,  
3 communicated, or otherwise made known to any person or entity, directly or indirectly,  
4 other than a Qualified Person subject to this Order, and in accordance with the  
5 designation (for avoidance of doubt, in the case of "**HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL**  
6 **ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY**" information, such Qualified Person are only the persons  
7 identified in paragraph 9 of this Order), or the party who produced such Designated  
8 Material, except as otherwise provided in this Order.

9 14. A document that contains or reveals Designated Material may be shown to  
10 any person who authored or previously had access to, or knowledge of, the document,  
11 as demonstrated by the document itself or by foundation testimony during a deposition,  
12 hearing, or trial.

13 15. Designated Material may be disclosed to a witness testifying under oath if  
14 the witness is an officer, director, employee, consultant, designated 30(b)(6) witness,  
15 expert or representative of the party who produced such Designated Material.

16 16. Nothing in this Order shall prevent the disclosure of Designated Material,  
17 if the producing party consents to such disclosure, or if the Court—after notice to all  
18 parties—orders such disclosure.

19 17. Counsel desiring to disclose Designated Material to an individual  
20 according to paragraph 6(d) (experts or consultants), or any other person according to  
21 paragraph 6(g) (other Qualified Persons) shall first obtain a signed declaration in the  
22 form shown in attached Exhibit A from that person. For independent experts or  
23 consultants encompassed by paragraph 6(d), counsel shall serve on every other party,  
24 such Qualified Person's signed Exhibit A and curriculum vitae or resume, by facsimile  
25 or electronic mail, at least seven (7) days in advance of the proposed disclosure of any  
26 Designated Material to that person. The identification of an independent expert or  
27 consultant under paragraph 6(d) shall include the full name and professional address  
28 and/or affiliation of the proposed independent expert or consultant, his or her up-to-date  
curriculum vitae, any prior or current employments or consultancies for any party within

1 the last five years (except those engagements that are protected from disclosure pursuant  
2 to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 or a court order), including a list of the cases in which the expert  
3 or consultant has testified at deposition, at a hearing, or at trial within the last five years.  
4 A party (“objecting party”) may object, for cause, to the proposed disclosure by serving  
5 a written objection within seven (7) days after receiving the copy of the signed  
6 declaration. A party’s failure to timely object shall waive their right to object, or any  
7 objection they may otherwise have. If a party objects to the proposed disclosure, the  
8 objecting party’s Designated Material shall not be disclosed to such person except by  
9 order of the Court upon motion of the disclosing party or by written consent of the  
10 objecting party. In the event that a party seeking disclosure files such a motion with the  
11 Court, the objecting party shall have the burden of proving that the sought disclosure  
12 should not be made.

13 18. If a party intends to reveal another party’s Designated Material during a  
14 trial, court appearance or hearing open to the public, the party intending to reveal such  
15 Designated Material shall provide reasonable advance notice, but not less than 7 days,  
16 and opportunity to object to the producing party, unless prior consent is obtained from  
17 the producing party.

18 19. Should any Designated Material be disclosed inadvertently to any person  
20 not duly authorized to receive such information under this Order, then the party  
21 responsible for such disclosure shall promptly notify counsel for the producing party of  
22 all pertinent facts, and make every effort to prevent further unauthorized disclosure,  
23 including retrieving all copies of the Designated Material from the unauthorized  
24 recipient(s) thereof, and requesting that each such recipient execute the declaration  
attached as Exhibit A.

25 **Identification and Marking of Designated Material**

26 27 28 20. Any document or other tangible thing that contains or reveals Designated  
Material shall be labeled “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL –  
ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” or a marking of like import, in accordance with  
paragraphs 8 and 9 of this Order. For documents, each page that contains Designated

1 Material shall bear the appropriate confidentiality designation label. For documents  
2 produced in native, electronic format, the document file name shall include an  
3 appropriate confidentiality designation. Any document or other tangible thing so  
4 labeled and the information that it contains or reveals shall be treated in accordance  
5 with applicable provisions of this Order. Any Designated Material not reduced to  
6 documentary or physical form, or which cannot be conveniently labeled, shall be so  
7 designated by a party by serving a written notification on the receiving party, with the  
8 production/disclosure.

9 21. When a party initially produces documents for inspection, no marking need  
10 be made by the producing party in advance of the inspection. For purposes of the  
11 inspection, all documents shall be treated as containing Designated Material. After the  
12 receiving party selects specified documents for copying, the producing party shall  
13 appropriately mark the copies of the selected documents before they are provided to the  
14 receiving party.

15 22. Only Qualified Persons, the deponent, the court reporter and videographer  
16 shall be allowed to attend any portion of a deposition in which Designated Material is  
17 used or elicited from the deponent. The deposition of any witness (or any portion of  
18 such deposition) that encompasses “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’  
19 EYES ONLY” or “CONFIDENTIAL” information shall be taken only in the presence  
20 of persons who are qualified to have access to such information.

21 23. ~~Subject to the Court’s procedures on the sealing and redaction of hearing~~  
22 ~~transcripts~~, Parties may, at the deposition ~~or hearing~~, or within thirty (14) days after  
23 receipt of a deposition ~~or hearing~~ transcript, designate the deposition ~~or hearing~~  
24 transcript or any portion thereof, including exhibits, as “CONFIDENTIAL,” or  
25 “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” pursuant to this Order.  
26 Access to such a designated deposition ~~or hearing~~ transcript shall be limited in  
27 accordance with the terms of this Order. For undesignated transcripts, the entire  
28 deposition ~~or hearing~~ transcript shall be treated as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL –

1 ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" until expiration of the 14-day period, absent other  
2 agreement by the Parties, or a court order stating otherwise.

3 24. A non-party to this Action (e.g., a third party producing information  
4 pursuant to subpoena) may designate such information as Designated Material as set  
5 forth in paragraphs 8 ("CONFIDENTIAL") and 9 ("HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL –  
6 ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY"). Such Designated Material shall be subject to the same  
7 restrictions and conditions as the Parties' Designated Material. Nothing in this  
8 provision shall limit the ability of a party to designate such information produced by a  
9 third party as Designated Material.

10 **Inadvertent Failure to Designate**

11 25. A producing party's inadvertent failure to designate specific documents or  
12 materials as containing Designated Material shall not be deemed a waiver, in whole or  
13 in part, of a claim of confidentiality as to such documents or materials. A producing  
14 party seeking to designate such documents or materials may do so by giving written  
15 notice to the receiving party. Upon notice to the receiving party of such failure to  
16 designate, the receiving party shall cooperate to restore the confidentiality of the  
17 inadvertently undesignated information. No showing of error, inadvertence, or  
18 excusable neglect shall be required for re-designation.

19 **Storage of Designated Material**

20 26. Any receiving party (**other than the Court or its personnel**) of Designated  
21 Material shall maintain such information in a reasonably secure and safe manner that  
22 limits access only to those persons authorized under this Order, and shall further  
23 exercise the same standard of due and proper care with respect to the storage, custody,  
24 use, and/or dissemination of such information as is exercised by the recipient with  
25 respect to its own proprietary information.

26 **Production of Privileged or Protected Documents**

27 27. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), the inadvertent  
28 production of any communication or information covered by the attorney-client  
privilege or work product protection is not a waiver in this Action or in any other federal

1 or state action. Further, documents or materials that are thereafter claimed to be subject  
2 to the attorney-client privilege, work-product immunity, or other rule or statute, shall  
3 not constitute a waiver of such privilege, immunity, or other protection in this Action,  
4 or any other action. After receiving written notice from the producing party that  
5 documents or materials subject to the attorney-client privilege, work-product immunity,  
6 or other protection have been produced, the receiving party shall not review, copy, or  
7 otherwise disseminate the documents or materials, or disclose their substance. In  
8 addition, the receiving party shall return such documents or materials, and all copies  
9 thereof within five (5) days from receiving notice, or provide written confirmation of  
10 the destruction of the original and all copies of the identified documents, including all  
11 documents and things generated by a receiving party which documents and things  
12 contain information derived from the returned/destroyed materials. The receiving party  
13 shall not utilize the information contained in the returned/destroyed documents or  
14 materials for any purpose, or disseminate or transmit such information.

15 (a) If the receiving party wishes to contest that any such document or  
16 thing is protected by the attorney-client privilege, work-product immunity, or other  
17 protection by rule or statute, the receiving party shall so notify the producing party in  
18 writing when the document or thing is returned to the producing party (“Notice  
19 Contesting Designation”).

20 (b) Within five (5) days of receiving a Notice Contesting Designation,  
21 the producing party shall provide the basis for the claim of privilege, immunity, or other  
22 protection to the receiving party, for each such document or thing (“Basis of  
23 Designation”).

24 (c) Within ten (10) days after receiving a Basis of Designation, the  
25 receiving party may seek to compel production of such documents and things, that are  
26 still in dispute, by filing a motion to compel with the court. In any such motion to  
27 compel, the receiving party shall not rely upon, or assert as a ground for ordering  
28 production, the fact, circumstances, or contents of the disputed production. Any such

1 motion ~~shall be~~ may be accompanied by an application to file under seal under Local  
2 Rule 79-5.

3 (d) The Parties may stipulate to extend the time periods set forth in (b)  
4 and (c) above.

5 (e) Nothing in this Order overrides any attorney's ethical  
6 responsibilities to refrain from examining or disclosing materials that the attorney  
7 knows or reasonably should know to be privileged, and to inform the disclosing party  
8 that such materials have been produced.

9 (f) Upon a motion to compel, filed pursuant to (c) above, the  
10 inadvertently disclosing party has the burden of establishing the privileged or protected  
11 nature of the information in question.

12 (g) Nothing in this Order limits the right of any party to petition the  
13 Court for an in camera review.

14 (h) This Order does not preclude a party from voluntarily waiving the  
15 attorney-client privilege or work product protection. The provisions of Federal Rule of  
16 Evidence 502(a) apply when the disclosing party uses or indicates that it may use  
17 information produced under this Order to support a claim or defense.

18 (i) ~~Under this Order, the provisions of Federal Rule of Evidence 502(b)~~  
19 ~~are inapplicable.~~

### Challenges to Designated Material Designation

20 28. A party shall not be obligated to challenge the propriety of a Designated  
21 Material designation at the time of the designated material's production, and a failure  
22 to so challenge shall not preclude a subsequent challenge thereto, consistent with any  
23 applicable Court ~~scheduling~~ order(s). In the event that a party disagrees ~~at any time~~  
24 with a Designated Material designation made by another party, the Parties shall make a  
25 good-faith attempt to resolve the dispute on an informal basis. If the Parties cannot  
26 resolve the dispute, the objecting party may seek appropriate relief from the Court  
27 consistent with the discovery dispute resolution procedures of the Court ~~and any~~  
28 ~~scheduling order~~, and the designating party shall have the burden of proving that its

1 Designated Material designation is proper. Frivolous challenges, and those made for  
2 an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on  
3 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions.

4 **Filing of Designated Material**

5 29. A Party that seeks to file under seal any Designated Material must comply  
6 with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may only be filed under seal pursuant to  
7 a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material at issue. If a  
8 Party's request to file Protected Material under seal is denied by the court, then the  
9 receiving party may file the information in the public record unless otherwise instructed  
10 by the court.

11 30. Nothing in this Order shall prevent a party from using any document,  
12 material or other information that is designated as Designated Material under this Order  
13 at a hearing, trial or other court proceeding in this Action, ~~provided such use is otherwise~~  
14 ~~consistent with the terms of this Order.~~

15 **Advice to Clients**

16 31. Nothing in this Order shall bar or otherwise restrict an attorney subject to  
17 this Order from rendering advice to his or her client with respect to this Action and, in  
18 the course thereof, referring to, or relying upon, his or her examination of Designated  
19 Material. In rendering such advice and in otherwise communicating with his or her  
20 client, the attorney shall not disclose any Designated Material if such disclosure would  
21 be contrary to the provisions of this Order.

22 **Miscellaneous**

23 32. No party shall be responsible to another party for any use made of  
24 information that was produced and not designated as Designated Material.

25 33. Documents and things produced or made available for inspection may be  
26 subject to redaction, in good faith, by the producing party, of information subject to the  
27 attorney-client privilege or work product immunity. Any such redaction shall be clearly  
28 labeled.

1       34. No party needs to log relevant and responsive Privileged Material  
2 generated on or after October 4, 2021 in a privilege log.

3       35. Within ninety (90) days after the final termination of this Action (including  
4 any appeals), each document and tangible thing that contains Designated Material,  
5 including copies, abstracts, summaries, notes, or other records regarding the contents of  
6 any Designated Material shall either be (a) returned to the attorney of record for the  
7 producing party or (b) destroyed with a representation of such destruction being made  
8 to the attorney of record for the producing party, and the receiving party shall provide  
9 a written certification to the producing party for such return or destruction.

10      36. Within ninety (90) days of withdrawal or termination of any counsel to this  
11 Action, said counsel shall likewise return or destroy each document and tangible thing  
12 in their possession that contains or reveals Designated Material, and any copies,  
13 abstracts, summaries, notes, or other records regarding the contents of any Designated  
14 Material.

15      37. Notwithstanding the foregoing, outside counsel and in-house legal  
16 representatives may retain the following, to the extent such counsel and legal  
17 representatives are otherwise entitled to access Designated Materials therein: each  
18 paper filed with the Court together with any exhibits thereto, each deposition transcript  
19 together with the exhibits marked at the deposition, each expert report together with any  
20 exhibits thereto, all written discovery and responses thereto, each demonstrative used  
21 at trial or any other hearing, each trial or hearing transcript, each exhibit used at trial,  
22 each item of correspondence related to this Action, and all drafts, memoranda, and other  
23 documents constituting work product that include Designated Material, so long as the  
24 terms of this Order will continue to govern any such retained materials. In the event  
25 that outside counsel and in-house legal representatives maintain such documents, **and**  
26 **the documents have not become public through the trial or other court hearing**, they  
27 shall not disclose material containing any Designated Material to another party or third  
28 party absent subpoena or court order. Outside counsel and in-house legal  
representatives likewise need not purge their email, document management systems, or

1 back-up storage media, provided, however, that such Designated Material shall remain  
2 subject to this Order. No person or receiving party is obligated to return or destroy  
3 Designated Material contained on electronic backup back-up tapes or other archival  
4 media, which should be treated in accordance with standard retention policies.  
5 However, to the extent that any material is accessed from back-up storage media,  
6 information protected by data privacy obligations shall be destroyed or returned and  
7 legal hold obligations shall be periodically reviewed for necessity and proportionality  
8 and information protected by data privacy obligations shall not be retained in perpetuity.

9       38. The provisions of this Order shall survive and remain in full force and  
10 effect after the termination of this Action (as well as any appeals) until a designating  
11 party agrees otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs.

12       39. This Order may be amended by Order of the Court, **including by stipulation**  
13 **of the parties and proposed order thereon.**

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15  
16 Dated: November 19, 2024  
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1 By: /s/ Ted Chandler

2 Theodore W. Chandler (Bar No. 219456)  
3 <[ted.chandler@bakerbotts.com](mailto:ted.chandler@bakerbotts.com)>  
BAKER BOTTs L.L.P.  
1801 Century Park East, Suite 2400  
4 Los Angeles, California 90067  
Telephone: (213) 202-5702  
5 Facsimile: (213) 202-5732

6 Robert L. Maier (*pro hac vice*)  
7 <[robert.maier@bakerbotts.com](mailto:robert.maier@bakerbotts.com)>  
8 Thomas Natsume (*pro hac vice*)  
9 <[thomas.natsume@bakerbotts.com](mailto:thomas.natsume@bakerbotts.com)>  
BAKER BOTTs L.L.P.  
10 30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112  
Telephone: (212) 408-2500  
Facsimile: (212) 408-2501  
<[dlbbsmoorecdca@BakerBotts.com](mailto:dlbbsmoorecdca@BakerBotts.com)>

11 Chao "Wendy" Wang (Bar. No. 289325)  
12 <[wendy.wang@bakerbotts.com](mailto:wendy.wang@bakerbotts.com)>  
BAKER BOTTs L.L.P.  
13 1001 Page Mill Road, Building One, Ste 200  
14 Palo Alto, California 94303  
Telephone: (650) 739-7514  
Facsimile: (650) 739-7614

15 *Attorneys for Plaintiff and  
Counterclaim Defendant  
Shenzhen Smoore Technology Co., Ltd.*

16 By: /s/ Nah Eun Kim

17 Kristin S. Webb (Bar No. 258476)  
<[Kristin.Webb@bclplaw.com](mailto:Kristin.Webb@bclplaw.com)>  
18 BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP  
1920 Main Street, Suite 1000  
Irvine, California 92614  
Telephone: (949) 223-7000  
Facsimile: (949) 223-7100

20 R. Tyler Goodwyn IV (*pro hac vice*)  
<[Tyler.Goodwyn@bclplaw.com](mailto:Tyler.Goodwyn@bclplaw.com)>  
21 Scott W. Cummings (*pro hac vice*)  
<[Scott.Cummings@bclplaw.com](mailto:Scott.Cummings@bclplaw.com)>  
Charles E. Tompkins (*pro hac vice*)  
<[Charles.Tompkins@bclplaw.com](mailto:Charles.Tompkins@bclplaw.com)>  
22 BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP  
1155 F Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
Telephone: (202) 508-6015  
Facsimile: (202) 508-6200

23 Evan Boyle (*pro hac vice*)  
<[Evan.Boyle@bclplaw.com](mailto:Evan.Boyle@bclplaw.com)>  
24 BRYAN CAVE LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP  
161 N Clark St #4300  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Telephone: (312) 602-5000  
Facsimile: (312) 602-5050

25 Nah Eun Kim (*pro hac vice*)  
<[Ana.Kim@bclplaw.com](mailto:Ana.Kim@bclplaw.com)>  
1201 W. Peachtree St., NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309  
Telephone: (404) 572-6645  
Facsimile: (404) 572-6999

26 *Attorneys for Defendants and  
Counterclaim Plaintiffs Next Level  
Ventures, LLC et al. and A&A Global  
Imports*

27 **FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.**

28 Dated: November 25, 2024



Hon. Alicia G. Rosenberg  
United States Magistrate Judge

1 **EXHIBIT A**

2 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
3 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

4 Shenzhen Smoore Technology Co., Ltd.,  
5 *Plaintiff and Counterclaim Defendant,*

6 vs.

7 Next Level Ventures, LLC et al.,  
8 *Defendants and Counterclaimant*  
9 *Plaintiffs.*

Case No. 2:22-cv-07646-AB-AGR

10 **AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

11 I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare and state under penalty of perjury that:

12 1. My address is \_\_\_\_\_.

13 2. My present employer is \_\_\_\_\_, located at  
14 \_\_\_\_\_.

15 3. My present occupation or job description is  
16 \_\_\_\_\_.

17 4. I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order  
18 that was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California  
19 on [date] in the above-captioned case. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the  
20 terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure  
21 to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt,  
22 and may be subject to other remedies that may be imposed by the Court and potentially  
23 liable in a civil action for damages.

24 5. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information  
25 or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except  
26 in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

27 6. At the termination of this Action or any time requested by counsel for the  
28 party by whom I am employed, I will return each document and tangible thing that

1 discloses or reveals any Designated Material to the attorney who provided such  
2 document or other tangible thing to me. Moreover, I will deliver any copies, abstracts,  
3 summaries, notes, or other records regarding the contents of any Designated Material  
4 to the attorney who provided such Designated Material to me.

5 7. I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District  
6 Court for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this  
7 Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after  
8 termination of this Action. I hereby appoint [print or type full name] of  
9 [print or type full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of  
10 process in connection with this Action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this  
11 Stipulated Protective Order.

12  
13 I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States that the  
14 foregoing is true and correct.

15  
16 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

17  
18 City and State where sworn and signed: \_\_\_\_\_

19  
20  
21 Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

22  
23  
24 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_